THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) The Ministry of Labour has not held a National Convention on Human Rights in Delhi. No Action Plan relating to child labour if suggested in any such convention has been received.

(b) Does not arise.

Indian Workers in foreign countries

2451. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian citizens working/employed in foreign countries;

(b) the names of such major countries where Indian citizens are employed; and

(c) country-wise number during the year 1988-89 and 1989-90?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWR): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Oil slick in the Bay of Bengal

2452. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an oil slick has been moving fas in the Bay of Bengal threatening Sunderbans forests besides animal and plant life;

(b) if so, he detaails thereof; and

(c) what measures Government have taken to tackle this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) An oil slick was sighted in the Bay of Bengal in the territorial waters of Bangladesh about 40 kms. south of New Moore Island. The slick had been deportedly caused when crude oil was being transferred from a Singapore based tanker to a small Bangladesh tanker off the Chittagong coast. It was initially 13 Kms. long but later split intoo small patches. According to latest information the slick is not visible in the Sunderbans area and does not pose any threat to animal and plant life and mangrove forests in Sunderbans.

(c) As the slick is not presently visible, no action is required to tacle it. However, the concerned authorities have been alerted to continue monitoring the environment of the Sunderbans area.

Exploitation of Mineral Deposits in Indian Ocean

2453. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "India joins race to top mineral-rich Indian Ocean" appearing in The Pioneer, New Delhi edition of 24th February, 1992;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have imported any technology know-how to carry out explanatory work in the Indian Ocean; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what efforts are being made to train the manpower in mining of seabed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The item describes at length the efforts being made by India in the field of deep seabed mining.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No specific programmes have been drawn up for manpower training in the field of deep seabed mining. However, a project to develop a mining system has been taken up at the Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute, Durgapur, which also helps in training of engineers.

Reversion of SC/ST Under Secretaries

2454. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:
SHRI M. A. BABY:
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3268 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th December, 1991 and State:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of SC/ST Section Officers Promoted as Under Secretaries on regular basis with effect from 4th December, 1991 to fill the reserved quota with reference to 460 existing vacancies in Grade-I of CSS have been reverted to the posts of Section Officers with effect from 30th January, 1992;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for reversion when all the SC/ST officers were promoted on the basis of 40-Point Roster and by following the instructions regarding extension of the zone of consideration to make promotions against the quota reserved for SCs/STs with reference to 460 existing vacancies in the Grade; and

(d) what steps have Government taken to restore the promotion of affected SC/ST Under Secretaries against their quota in 460 existing vacancies in Grade-I of CSS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (c) During the hearing of a contempt petition against the order issued on 4.12.1991, the Supreme Court directed that the eligibility list of November, 1987 and not that of March, 1987 should be the basis for promotion. The Government was advised that to purge itself of contempt, promotions should be made strictyl according to the ranking in the said eligibility list of November, 1987. Accordingly revised orders were issued on 30.1.1992 making promotions strictly according to the ranking in the eligibility list of November, 1987. In this process, Section Officers belonging to hthe Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who were junior, though promoted earlier on 4.12.1991, were left out except those whose names appeared in the eligibility list of November, 1987.

(d) The Supreme Court on 31.1.92 directed that for any modification of the interim order of 20.9.91, a separate application should be filed. Accordingly, an interim application has been filed in the Supreme Court praying for permission to promote SC/ST officers against the quota reserved for them. A request for early hearing has also been made. Further action will be taken on the basis of the orders of the Supreme Court.

Lowering the Retirement age of Central Government Employees

2455. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had decided to decrease the retirement age of Central Government employees; and

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.